

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/799,887
Attorney Docket Q79841
November 17, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11 and 12 inclusive are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action Claim 10 was objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-10 inclusive were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller et al. (6,452,099). Claims 2-10 inclusive have been canceled without prejudice in order to advance the prosecution of the present application and new Claims 11 and 12 have been substituted therefore. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 11 and 12 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 is directed to a connector member for electrical connections through the wall of a fuel tank of a motor vehicle which is designed to operate with a pressure within the tank higher than an external pressure. The connector member is comprised of a body of synthetic material designed to be received in a through hole in the wall of the tank. One or more conductor pins are embedded in the body of the connector member and project from opposite ends of the body. Contrary to the Examiner's statement the conductor pins of Miller et al. are not embedded in the body 14. In Miller the conductor pin are held within the body 14 by means of interposed insulator 66. Therefore, it is submitted that Claim 1 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of the teachings of Miller et al. and is therefore allowable.

New Claim 11 is a combination of original Claims 1, 2, 3 and 4. Claim 11 therefore calls for the conductor pins being embedded in the body of the connector member which is made of synthetic or elastomer material. New Claim 11 is also specific to the fact that the body of the

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connector member has an end flange provided with holes for engagement of fixing screws to the wall or plate of the tank with the flange having front cavities each of which is traversed by a respective conductor pin. A seal ring is mounted within each of the axial cavities between the respective conductor pin and the wall of the cavity and are axially pressed by portions projecting form a covering plate juxtaposed on the flange. While Miller et al. shows sealing means 78 there is no covering plate having projections pressing on the sealing ring. In view of the foregoing features which are not disclosed or suggested by Miller et al. it is submitted that Claim 11 is also allowable.

New Claim 12 is a combination of original Claims 1, 6 and 7. In addition to having conductor pins embedded in the body of the connector, Claim 12 is specific to the fact that the body of the connector is made of elastomer material which performs the function of a seal. Claim 12 also specifically calls for an auxiliary plate which can be fixed to the wall or plate of the tank so as to axially compress the body made of elastomer material against an opposed surface in the seat. The body of the connector of Miller et al. is not of elastomer material and there is no teaching or suggestion of providing an auxiliary plate which can be fixed to the wall or plate of the tank so as to axially compress the body of elastomer material against an opposed surface in the seat. Therefore, it is submitted that new Claim 12 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of the teachings of Miller et al.

In view of the foregoing comments it is submitted that Claims 1, 11 and 12 are clearly not anticipated by or the least bit obvious in view of the teachings of Miller et al. Therefore, it is

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respectfully requested that Claims 1, 11 and 12 inclusive be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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